

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

Patent Claims

1. A method to code and decode digital data transmitted or stored according to the prioritized pixel transmission method, wherein the information to be coded or decoded comprises individual pixel groups, wherein each pixel group has a positional value, at least one pixel value, and a priority value assigned to it, characterized in that at least one key is used with which the positional value and/or the pixel value/pixel values of a pixel group are selectively coded or decoded.
2. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the key is selectively linked to the type of information content to be coded and/or to the original source, and/or to the transmission medium used, or it contains a temporal relationship.
3. A method according to one of claims 1 or 2, characterized in that each pixel value, or one or more selected pixel values, are coded or decoded using its own separate key.
4. A method according to one of claims 1 through 3, characterized in that a symmetrical coding method is carried out.
5. A method according to one of claims 1 through 3, characterized in that an asymmetrical coding method is carried out.

6. A method according to one of claims 1 through 5, characterized in that the pixel groups are comprised of digitized scanned values of an audio signal.
7. A method according to one of claims 1 through 6, characterized in that the files contain image data, video data or audio data.
8. A method according to one of claims 1 through 7, characterized in that the color level of the pixel values is coded or decoded in graduations using a separate key.